

# YUFOS

YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

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## PROJECT RED BOOK

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(Vol 3 #11, May 2000)



Mr Faker, or can i call you Pat? You say you believe in U F O s is that correct and have you had any strange things happen to you? Well in my job its very rare anything happens, take today the mail is lighter then usual, but hey! it makes my job easier. But back to having seeing anything the answer is no, but don't worry nothing gets past me!!!!!! Thank you Mr Faker by the way nice perm!!

inside this document

AN INTERVIEW WITH RORY LUSHMAN

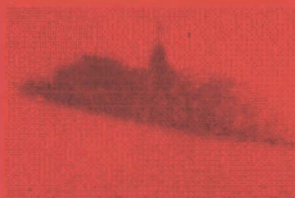
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## YUFOS



Vol 3, # 11, May 2000)

## CONTENTS

**1)EDITORIAL: "ch-ch-ch-ch-changes"**

**2)GIANT AIRCRAFT MAY CAUSE SIGHTINGS-** *Jenny Randles with IFO warning*

**3) AN INTERVIEW WITH RORY LUSHMAN**  
*Dave Baker interviews recent YUFOS lecturer and one of the founders of the new-look UFOIN. But are there any trains?*

**9) KLASSE SCORES COUP WITH SECRET UFO DOCUMENTS** *Patrick Huyghe*

**11)SURVIVORS OF THE PAST?** *Do dinosaurs still thrive in remote parts of the world? New YUFOS scribe Aaron Justice thinks so...*

**14) BEING LED BY THE LEADERS** *Andy Ashmore on Andy Roberts and Tony Dodd.*

**15) PROSAIC EXPLANATIONS (pt 4)** *Bruce Maccabee with a different slice of Klass*

**19) COUNTDOWN TO THE MILLENIUM (PT3)**  
*Adam Bradley reviews Tim Matthews' Conference at Chorley, except that this is the last bit.*

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**Serial killer of the month:** *Chapman Baxter*

**To re-print articles in this magazine** please enquire at the above address- that means me, Dave. I'm sure to say "yes", but it is nice to ask first, y'know?

The articles and views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, YUFOS members, or Dr.Zoidberg

"Five by five."



## EDITORIAL

### "Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes!"

This issue marks the fourth birthday of the Yorkshire UFO Society. Established from the smoking ruins of the Sheffield UFO Research Association and the Yorkshire UFO Network, YUFOS have managed to keep on going where other UFO groups have breathed their last and expired. We're not famous, we're not extensive, and we don't have monogrammed jumpers<sup>1</sup>, but, as Roy Castle so memorably put it, we've got "*Dedication. Mmm-mmm, dedication. Uh-huh, dedication, that's what we've got.*"

Or something like that anyway.

We've been through the '50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UFOs' boom, the X-Files craze and the Mars Meteorite madness, and through it all, *YUFOS Magazine* and *Project Red Book* have concentrated, quite rightly in my opinion, on UFOs. After all, this is what UFO groups should do, by their very definition, or we'd be called something incomprehensible like YUFOGBLNMCCUBCAOSLTS (Yorkshire UFO, Ghosts, Bigfoot, Loch Ness Monster, Crop Circles, Underground Bases, Conspiracies, Aliens, and Other Stuff Like That Society). Try saying that after a couple of pints. Or even before, for that matter.

But as many people are aware, general interest in UFOs has for some time been on the wane. Jenny Randles recently pointed out on the UFOIN list that book publishers are no longer contracting books about UFOs. It's all ancient earth mysteries and new age crystal bullshit. So future Jenny books on flying saucers and 'Space Aliens' are out and Alan Alford is in. One of those things.

But aside from that, throughout the world, UFO sightings and case reports generally, are down. Whether this is because there are less unusual things happening in our skies, or that fewer people are walking around with their necks craned up to actually see them if they are there, is debatable, but it's true. It's true.

UFOIN, whose members are hardly amateurs<sup>2</sup> have been together for months now, and yet the only thing anyone is investigating are old

cases, with the exception of a piece of video footage from a Doncaster man of something fiery and unusual in the skies over the Canaries. Yet even this is believed by investigators Dave Clarke and Dave Sankey<sup>3</sup> to be Trident missile tests. However, investigation is on-going so we shall see.

Closer to home, the only thing currently on YUFOS' books is a flap of sightings witnessed by the same family between 1980 and 1985. Interesting, but certainly not up-to-the-minute-news. If people want new and exciting UFO encounters every day of the week, and original case reports coming out of their ears, they've come to the wrong place.

Luckily for YUFOS, we've all pretty much stuck together, and as I've already said, although we are by no means a large group, our members are enthusiastic, and for the most part, sane. Okay, so some of us spend an entire day in one town but think they spent it in another, others occasionally break out into profanity during meetings just because two members are giggling like schoolkids instead of listening to The Boss, still others fall off haystacks in the middle of skywatches, and some....some, send kak-worm viruses to each other endlessly.<sup>4</sup>

But even we can start to get stale when there is nothing new happening in the wacky world of UFOs.

Not only does this lead to repetition at meetings,<sup>5</sup> but it is becoming increasingly hard to find enough material for the magazine each month. Project Red Book is 20 A4 pages each month...no other local, grass-roots group comes even close to this. Only, I think, Fortean Times and the MUFON journal can beat this, and they have contacts across the globe scribbling away for them.

<sup>3</sup> One of the criteria of membership to UFOIN is to be called 'Dave'.

<sup>4</sup> Come on. You all know who you are.

<sup>5</sup> There are only so many times that you can watch the STS-48 footage before you start bleeding from the ears...

<sup>1</sup> Copyright Staffordshire UFO Group

<sup>2</sup> 'cept me.

I don't want to cut the magazine down, either by number of pages or by frequency of issues per year, because I'm damn proud of our record. So there is only one choice open to us. And it ain't actually a bad one...

Like many of the surviving UFO groups around the country, YUFOS are going to branch out into other areas. Not trains, not recipes for Christmas truffles, not outright paranoia. All that has already been done...

I'm talking about looking at the bigger picture.

It's not actually that big a leap. For months now, I have featured the column *From Around the World...And Beyond!!!*, which has included space sciences, aviation, mysterious big cats, and hairy hominids on a regular basis.

Just about everyone involved with YUFOS holds a similar interest for other unusual 'phenomenon'; ghosts, psychic powers, cryptozoology, curses, whatever, and this interest has in fact been reflected in our meetings. So, I trust, all of this will settle well with everyone.

It doesn't mean that we believe everything, but we are fascinated, as we are with UFOs, in the stories, and if not in their truth, then in why people believe in such things.

We will still try to walk a fine line between Believer and Skeptic, again something few magazines do. In this issue we have, for example, two sides to the coin that is Philip Klass: the last part of Bruce Maccabee's Klass critique, and a piece by Patrick Huyge on where the man might have it right. I believe it's something that is seen very rarely in this field, especially in group magazines...what's it called now...oh yeah, 'an open mind'.

And we shall still try to concentrate on UFOs. If all of a sudden fleets of UFOs are witnessed over every city around the globe, if every third person on your street receives nocturnal visits from anally-fixated Reticulans, or if a flying saucer crashes on the Whitehouse lawn- I mean 'lawn', you'll hear about it here before you read about a ten-year-old sighting of a Skunk-ape from Jerkwater, Louisiana.

But until then, variety will be, indeed, the spice of life...

Oh, and we are still going to call ourselves YUFOS, and the magazine will always be

*Project Red Book*. At least, until we run out of red paper...

## GIANT AIRCRAFT MAY CAUSE SIGHTINGS

Investigators following up sightings of UFOs in the north-west should consider a new IFO source.

In the early weeks of 2000 there have been several landings at Manchester Airport of a giant 'Antinov' Russian transport aircraft. These are used to ferry in the wings for aircraft being assembled by the BAe plant at Woodford.

The Antinov is an enormous aircraft and unusual in configuration. Seen at low level (when coming into land near Stockport, for example) it dwarves a Jumbo Jet and its lighting can create the impression of a huge UFO.

Even witnesses aware of aircraft activity may be fooled by such a plane. It is advisable to correlate any sighting activity within 20 miles of Ringway Airport with these aircraft landings and take offs.

Jenny Randles 07/03/00 (UFOIN)

## \*\*NEXT MEETING\*\*

TUESDAY, 13 JUNE 2000

7:00pm – 10:00pm

*THE THREE CRANES*

QUEEN STREET

SHEFFIELD CITY CENTRE

## AN INTERVIEW WITH RORY LUSHMAN

*Rory Lushman lives in Accrington, Lancashire. He is a cinema manager in Stockport, and he has interests in railways and karate. As well as being a UFO investigator and researcher, he currently is working on the Strategic Reserve Project. He was a founder member of the Pendle-Hyndburn UFO Network (PHUFON), and editor of the group's magazine, Down To Earth. He now publishes The Labyrinth. He was also one of the founding members of the UFO Investigation Network (UFOIN).*

**Dave Baker:** How did you become interested in ufology?

**Rory Lushman:** At the age of about seven (ish) I scalded my foot when I knocked a boiling kettle over. My father was on nights and so I stayed in my mother's room. I couldn't sleep, so I read some women's magazines that my mother had left lying around. Each one of them had an article on UFO's and I remember being fascinated by the thought that aliens were visiting us in UFO's. I think all ufologists start out with such a naive view.

**How did you form PHUFON?**

I was trying to organise a UFO conference to coincide with the release of the film *Independence Day*. I wrote to many groups asking for help and I noticed one advertised in Burnley. So I went along for my own curiosity at first. I found out they were calling it a day as they were mainly into spiritualism. I thought it would be a shame to let it die, so I took it over and widened the area it covered and so was born the Pendle, Hyndburn UFO Network. Pendle covered the Burnley area and Hyndburn covered the Accrington area.

**Tell us about some of the cases you investigated during your PHUFON years...**

I've just managed to get back the case files from PHUFON, as these were just gathering dust and not being followed up. Most cases were LITS. (Lights In The Sky) The best and most detailed case was the alleged sighting of two triangular formations of red lights over Chorley and I spoke about this at my first talk for YUFOS last year. From this, we made an appeal via the newspapers and got some good responses. However none of them were

connected to triangular formations. They all were reporting orange spheres of lights, about football size. I am still chasing up these, though I suspect they have a natural explanation. I even had one reported to me in Gatley where I work but you have to make up your own mind whether there are spheres of light floating around or is it just a load of balls.

One of the last cases we got under the PHUFON banner was a report of another black triangle over Chorley, they certainly like this town.

**Wasn't there some 'black triangle' case you investigated which got a little out of control? There was supposed to be a connection with the Manchester Air-miss case if I remember rightly...**

Mark Lloyd was the chap and I use his real name as he has approached many newspapers, TV and radio stations to report his sighting and so his name is not shrouded in secrecy.

Many of you will no doubt remember the famous Manchester Air Miss case, whereby British Airways pilots Roger Wills and Mark Stuart reported a UFO shooting past their Boeing 737 in the opposite direction. Their flight, which was inbound from Milan, was on the final approach to Manchester International Airport. The date was January 6th, 1995.

Basically Mark claims he saw a giant triangular UFO the same day as the pilots flying the 737 into Manchester saw their UFO, though there is a time difference of about four hours. He neglected to report it until the CAA investigation was made public, saying he had been threatened to keep quiet.

His account has changed dramatically over the years, as has the colour of the UFO. I believe this case to be totally made up, as there are so



many contradictions in Mark's ever changing account. When Mark read my findings, he threatened to sue me. I told him to go ahead and do it.....I've not heard from him since. Have you ever personally witnessed anything you couldn't explain?

Yes, twice. One was about three years ago; I was playing football with my son, brother in-law and nephew, when I noticed a silver ball like "object" moving swiftly in a straight line. It covered a few miles in about a minute. Then all of a sudden it shot upwards and disappeared into a small white cloud but never came out the other side.

The second time, I was with my wife and son on Carleton Moor one sunny day about two years ago. Both my wife and I had binoculars. We watched -again- a silver ball type object fly in a straight line, then disappear behind a cloud.

Both the above will probably have mundane explanations to them but as yet we have not found out what they were, possibly the sun reflecting off birds etc.

On your first visit to lecture for YUFOS, you showed us the Carleton Moor film. For the uninitiated, give us a few details.

In October 1997, I was on Carleton Moor with Eric Morris and my son. At about 9.25pm a bright orange light appeared in the sky and seemed to be moving towards us. It stopped and was joined by another one. They both hung motionless in the air for a few minutes, then the left hand light moved quickly to the left and stopped. It then proceeded to drop below the hill very slowly. The right hand light then also dropped slowly below the horizon. Despite appeals in the area where we thought the lights were, we never got any other witnesses. As to what they were, who knows. Earthlights, flares, helicopters, all are possible and I rule out aliens totally but then I always think I did as soon as I dropped the naïve schoolboy act.

What happened with PHUFON? I know that you are done with it, but is it still running, in some form?

PHUFON disbanded after three years, under amicable terms and for a number of reasons. The UFO scene as we all know went very quiet

and still is to this day. Sightings were very sparse. I had started investigating other areas of interest like the Strategic Reserve and so could not run a UFO group whilst investigating other unrelated cases as the time was not available. I wrote to all members explaining the situation. It was up to the other committee members as to whether they carried it on or not. They did not but I offered PHUFON member's copies of my new magazine instead, *The Labyrinth*. Many took this offer up.

### What is the Strategic Reserve?

It is a store of equipment/food/weapons etc that could be used in a time of crisis or a time of shortage. The locations where they are stored are called buffer zones. It would make economical and logistical sense to keep a store or pool of vital provisions and materials. My interest in the Strategic Reserve is the claim that many steam locomotives were hidden away in hillsides and MoD locations. I have been looking at various locations in great detail that are connected to the rail strategic reserve.

Do you think some sort of strategic reserve exists, even if steam trains are not involved? It seems likely to me considering that in any conflict, known munitions dumps and stores would be amongst the first targets...

Yes. My investigations into the rail reserve seem to suggest that most of the accounts are based on platform end rumour and trainspotters not being able to accept the majestic steam locomotives have died for good. I haven't fully given up on it yet, because proving one site does not have trains hidden does not mean there isn't a reserve at another location.

I'm sure there is a reserve of other equipment for the reasons I stated earlier.

One of your prime sites is Heapey....a couple of YUFOS members joined you in a quick visit there are were suitably impressed.

Heapey, near Chorley was the second location we investigated in connection with the strategic rail reserve. The site is an old Royal Ordnance Factory that was used for the storage of ordnance that was manufactured at the ROF site in Euxton, Chorley. Paul Screeton who

produces *Folklore Frontiers* told me how he had met a man who claimed to have seen lines of steam locomotives hidden in the hills at Heapey. When I went to investigate, a woman told me her husband also believed there were trains in the hillside. After detailed investigations I feel this is not the case as there were indeed lines of steam locomotives; a local man confirmed this as he used to pass them every day but these were probably held there until removed for scrapping at another location.

What do you think is going on there? It certainly is something interesting...

I still think the location is being used by the Royal Ordnance Factory at Euxton, also in Chorley as a storage point. Many of the locals were told Heapey was abandoned and one resident had been refused planning permission initially because it would have been in the blast zone. Three years later she was granted permission after being told that the Heapey location was empty.

Whilst the locals were split 50/50 as to whether steam trains were still there, most of those we spoke to agree the site was still being visited in the middle of the night by lorries. Parts of Heapey do indeed look abandoned but other parts do not. If the site is empty why are the roads always so clean, why is it still lit up at nights with modern lampposts, why is there someone in the office at the rear of the site at nights and why do the MoD police still patrol it? This location is still under investigation but not for the strategic reserve.

What credence do you give to tales from the likes of Matthew Williams about there being a secret underground railroad in the Box Hill Tunnel? One that leads to UFO – conspiracy-nut's favourite Rudloe Manor?

The "secret" tunnel is located on the London End of the Box Hill Tunnel and is situated next to the main portal. The tunnel is a small one. Matthew did say that the entrance was inside the Box Hill but he now disputes this and says he always said it was next to the London end.

What we do know is the tunnel does exist but it was the entrance to an underground ammunition storage facility. If you go through

the Box Tunnel, then through Middle Hill Tunnel, there are some old platforms. These used to serve Monkton Farleigh, another ammunition storage site. So there is nothing sinister about these tunnels, they were just wartime storage facilities, which the Germans never located.

What else do you have planned to investigate in the Strategic Reserve field?

Mainly other locations. We have looked provisionally at Rhydymwyn near Mold but there is much to check there. Other sites include Shoburyness Defence Evaluation Centre, Hessay near York, Bicester MoD and Kineton MoD. All these locations have come up in accounts of the strategic rail reserve.

Are you only interested in the railway link to such sites?

At the moment, yes. Our original interest was sparked from the Box Hill Tunnel investigation. We have proved that there are no trains in the Box Hill Tunnel. Once I have investigated all the above locations, I intend to broaden the research into the strategic reserve and to take into account all possible or alleged pools of equipment.

Do you think that underground bases, in one form or another, exist, and do you know of any?

I'm sure underground bases exist all over the world. Any country worth its salt would store essential items underground for protection; this makes common sense, no big conspiracy theory needed here. I have only read of locations of underground facilities but as I have stated I do not feel threatened by this, I think it is good security. Of course there are those that like to scale fences, get shot at and pretend there are extreme secrets at these locations. Yes these locations may be secret but that's for a reason, in the name of national security. Some people would like to know every little hidey-hole and feel it is their job to expose these.

Do you still investigate UFO cases that come your way or are you bored with the entire subject?

Yes I would still investigate UFO cases and indeed I am still looking over a few of the old PHUFON case files and intend to chase these up. I'm not bored with the subject, though it can be very frustrating at times. I do get bored with re-hashed investigations that uncover nothing but just keep the case involved in people's minds.

There are very few cases/sightings being reported. It's interesting to note that there has definitely been a loss of interest in the subject. Is this connected to the lack of sightings? Does one feed the other, I think they do.

Who do you admire in the UFO field?

I think the first ever-real ufologist I ever saw was Jenny Randles on some talk programme like *Kilroy*. This was a long time back and I remember her describing how a UFO case had been proven to be something mundane and not an alien craft. I remember naively thinking; hang on ufologists should be promoting the visitations of aliens – how stupid can one be.

After I got actively involved I realised Jenny was right and many of the problems in ufology come from people accepting or believing in aliens with no evidence. Its only when you bother to get off your butt, you see the evidence for it is so slim. Also Jenny does not charge vast sums to do lectures for UFO groups. She could easily make a profit doing this and chooses not to, unlike some we could name.

Andy Roberts, anarchy in ufology has always been his specialty. He is able to suss people out very quickly. Those who would make a mockery or a profit in ufology at others peoples' expenses should be warned, your days are numbered. Ufology needs people like Andy.

This may sound like I'm going through a butter up all on the UFOIN members list campaign. Its not a case of that, many of these people were the first I came across in ufology, either via their writings or personally. David Clarke's excellent investigation into the Howden Moor case leaves many researchers quaking in their boots at the amount of details he has researched.

There are numerous ufologists up and down the country with excellent investigation skills and I think we can all learn from them. I try to

absorb ideas from others and improve the way I handle my own investigations.

I will probably get burnt at the stake or denounced as a heretic but Tim Matthews has got to be admired for his ability to keep coming back time after time despite so much crap being thrown at him.....admittedly some from me in the past. I don't agree with some of his ideas and thoughts and I'm sure he may think that of me but he persists onwards and many lesser men would have crumbled under the pressure.

Do you think there is *anything* unexplained in the UFO phenomenon?

This is the old cliché. Yes there are many things that at the moment remain unexplained but that does not mean five minutes or ten years from now they won't remain unsolved.

Do you give any credence to the more exotic explanations such as Time Travellers, Inter-dimensional explorers, that UFOs are living creatures, or the good old ETH?

I've never gone for these more exotic explanations; the simplest answer surely must be the most logical. Time travelling aliens or inter-dimensional explorers in my opinion are non-starters. Researchers are still haggling over 50 year old cases, why muddy the water with unproven theories.

Have you ever come across any other unusual phenomena?

Nothing specific as such. The only thing I that I could describe as unusual was my ability to predict when a film was going to snap upon starting at a cinema I worked at in Blackburn. In the early 80's I was Chief Projectionist at the Blackburn cinema and we had three screens. We had changed the projection equipment, which necessitated a post covered in rollers to take the film around a corner onto the spool.

Back then film was quite fragile, unlike today where we have polyester prints, which are so strong that if the film jams it will rip the whole photo-electric cell out before it breaks.



Because of this extra burden of going around corners, the film would on occasions break. I came to know when screen two was going to break by a feeling in my stomach that something was going to happen. This only ever worked in screen two. If I got the feeling, the film would break upon starting. Even if I unlaced the projector and made sure the film leader was intact, once I started the film, it would break.

It was something that happened only on occasions so was less likely to be predictable. It was screen one and three that were prone to breaking, yet I never got the feeling prior to them breaking. If I got the feeling a break was imminent I would start the film early to allow for the break.

You've appeared on TV a couple of times. How did you rate the experience?

I find the behind the scenes activities and the technical side interesting. Most of the time the producers know how or which way they want the programme to go. You can spend many hours at locations, or sat in the Green Room waiting to go on, only to find your piece is milliseconds.

I did the James Whale show, which went rather well. In studio debates you are always placed carefully, it's not a random factor where you sit. I've done Granada Breeze three times and the BBC twice. I managed to get the MIB Conference I organised on Sky News.

The media uses you, so I use them. Don't expect fame and fortune. Expect to be ridiculed, have your opinions altered or edited out. I would still use TV on occasions but it's a game you've got to learn to play and use caution. Having your ugly mug on the "tele" is not all its cracked up to be. I find radio a better medium, you tend to be on longer and also get more feedback via phone-ins follow up calls.

What sort of things do you feature in *The Labyrinth*?

The Labyrinth has no set agenda, although in the main it will cover (as does the web site) UFO cases and unusual/different or amusing railway articles. The first two issues featured the atrocities in Rwanda. Issue three, is an anorak special dedicated to the Strategic Reserve and other rail topics. Issue four will

cover the atrocities in Afghanistan and will also feature an article by Fred Miller who worked in the Corsham Citadel back in 1943.

To get a flavour of what *The Labyrinth* is about, visit the following site, sign the Guest Book and let me know what you think (keep it clean.)

<http://www.angelfire.com/mn2/Oubliette/index.html>

I hear that you are hoping to write a book...

This is something I have been toying with for a while. The cinema where I work is threatened with closure and so my employment is not guaranteed. I want to use writing as an extra source of income. I don't think I will become a best seller and don't intend to make a living from it.

Its early days and I have started on material for two different projects. One will be about cinemas, this will be based on true-life experiences and I have given it a working title of "Life at 24 Frames Per Second." The other project will cover in more depth unusual rail stories, such as the Strategic Reserve, Haunted Railways and other such material. I am hoping to write this with somebody else but this is in the very early stages and we are seeking a publisher who may be interested. Also we are toying with the idea of doing a past and present book.....again about railways.

Okay, I'll throw a few prime targets your way.... What do you think of....

**Man Made UFOs?**

These are a real phenomenon but basically they -whoever they are- use the UFO interest to cover up secret projects. It's interesting to see that many people would rather believe in alien UFO's than secret weapon/plane development.

**Alien Abductions?**

When I was naïve and young I did believe this but as soon as I took an active roll in ufology I soon became very sceptical, as I found no evidence to support it.

**Is there a UFO cover-up?**

Yes but only the man-made ones. I'd have to see more evidence of any alien cover up before I'd even consider this as a thought.  
Do you trust the Government?

Trust them in what way? Yes they lie, steal, manipulate things to their own ends but at the end of the day most of it is done for national security reasons, however I'm sure a few get caught up in their web and feel the consequences. A few like to pretend they're being watched and want to make themselves feel more important than they actually are.

The new footage spouted by (UK) UFO Magazine?

As with any footage, including my own I think there are rational explanations, including misidentifications, hoaxes and a myriad of explanations. I won't be holding my breath over this footage.

Earth-lights?

This was always a pet theory but it does make more sense than some. I still have to be convinced fully and who knows maybe our footage on Carleton Moor will turn out to be these little buggers.

Roswell?

Never heard of it. Something happened at Roswell, a town got rich and famous. Again so many contradictions are reported it's hard to say what happened. I would tend to believe some experimental test went wrong and they had to cover it up quickly but shot themselves in the foot by issuing the crashed UFO statement followed by the weather balloon account.

What do you consider to be the strongest 'unexplained' UFO case in history?

I don't. Most cases have those who say they can explain it. If we are still haggling over old cases 50 years on, what chances have we of resolving cases today? If you come up with evidence against a case the die-hard believers will still believe in aliens. I think all cases are solvable but many haven't reached that status and many won't whilst people refuse to believe a case is resolved. Take the Berwyn Mountain case. To this day and forever more there will

be those convinced an alien UFO crashed despite evidence to the contrary.

Lastly, which 5 books should be on every ufologists bookshelf?

Ah ha. Firstly I have read quite a number of books on the subject and I think it's quite important to read books from both sides of the fence. Knowing the latest opinions and what is currently being debated is important.

Your question asks what 5 books a ufologists should have. There is a difference between what a researcher/ufologist would read and say Joe Public. Joe Public just wants to be entertained.

There should be books that can only help in the pursuit of ufology. I would suggest general topics such as the following.

Aeroplane identification books. These are a must, how many researchers have had calls from Mr X who insists that a UFO passes his house at the same time every night.

A good Astronomy book, showing all constellations and detailing when, where stars can be seen in the night sky at any time of the year. (I have a programme on my PC that does this.)

A Geographical Atlas which shows rock types, mountain/hill heights, forests, lakes, populations and any other contributing factor that could help in a UFO case. Whilst still a pet theory, some UFO cases could be linked to the type of rock in a certain area producing earthlights – possibly.

The Air Band Radio Handbook is also a good buy. This gives detailed Airport procedures, flight paths and holding patterns for aeroplanes. As a supplement and not a book, purchase air maps of Britain; Manchester Airport has loads of them.

Finally, any book by Nick Pope. When you are down and feeling despair within ufology, just read any of his books for the chuckle factor and this will make your own investigation skills seem excellent.

I have quite a good collection of books now that cover all spectrums of ufology and some of these contribute a lot to the subject.

Rory, thanks for an entertaining interview, and don't get lost in them there dark tunnels....

# KLASS SCORES COUP WITH SECRET GOVERNMENT UFO DOCUMENTS

By Patrick Huyghe

<http://www.space.com/>

The UFO controversy is full of strange stories, but this may be the strangest yet.

## Summary

"[XXXX] REPORT SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT. AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT WAS SIGHTED BY [XXXX] BETWEEN THE [XXXX] OF [XXXX] AND [XXXX]." "THE OBJECT WAS DESCRIBED AS HAVING A SEMI-CIRCLE SHAPE AND LOOKED LIKE AN ARC IN THE SKY. THIS OBJECT WAS ALSO NOTED AS BEING WHITE AND VERY LARGE." "IT WAS SEEN FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT TEN MINUTES AND IT SEEMED TO JUST HANG IN THE SKY FOR A FEW MINUTES BEFORE MOVING ON IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION. [XXXX]"

-- typical example of the NSA documents. [XXXX] indicates censored material.

Few people are aware that a few years ago, Philip Klass, the lone-gun UFO skeptic despised by believers as "the enemy," managed to do something that the most devoted researchers had attempted for years without success -- getting the super-secret National Security Agency (NSA) to release portions of its long-withheld UFO documents.

The surprise move by Klass could have backfired, but instead has turned into a remarkable coup.

## The heart of the matter

For the past two decades, the Holy Grail of those who believe the government is staging a massive cover-up of UFO evidence has been the 156 UFO-related documents that the NSA has refused since 1979 to release in any shape or form.

Even the court battle to get those documents released under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in the early 1980s served only to stoke the fires of conspiracy.

When UFO researchers managed to get hold of the 21-page affidavit that NSA had presented to the court to justify its actions, the affidavit came back heavily blacked-out and censored. But it made a good prop for the TV cameras and seemed like pretty tangible proof to back-up the claim of some believers that the government was indeed hiding what it knew about UFOs.

## Enter the unflappable Philip Klass.

In October of 1996, Klass wrote a letter to the director of the NSA, Lt. Gen. Kenneth Minihan, in effect tugging at the top-secret curtain that hides the NSA's UFO documents from public view.

Klass, as contributing editor for Aviation Week and Space Technology, had interviewed Minihan on the subject of electronic warfare two years previously, when Minihan was director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Just two weeks before sending out the letter, Klass had heard Minihan, now director of the NSA, give a talk at a conference of the Association of Old Crows.

## How to get results

In his letter, Klass explained to Minihan that his hobby for the last 30 years had been to debunk claims that UFOs are alien spacecraft visiting Earth and that the government was engaged in a massive UFO cover-up.

After this and other preliminary remarks, Klass sprung his request on Minihan. Now that the face of world politics had so changed, might the NSA reconsider declassifying at least some of its UFO-related documents?

Releasing this material, most of which are COMINT, or communications intelligence, reports dating from 1958 to 1979, would help "expose the absurdity of claims that these documents prove a government UFO cover-up," Klass wrote.



## Declassified delivery

A couple of months rolled by and then in January of 1997 the mailman arrived at Klass's door with "a gigantic package from NSA."

And there they were, the never-publicly-seen 156 NSA documents, as well as a heavily declassified version of the 21-page NSA court affidavit.

What the documents and affidavit reveal, Klass says, is that NSA's earlier refusal to release the documents was aimed squarely at keeping secret the agency's eavesdropping on Soviet air defense radar sites.

In fact, the 156 NSA UFO documents are still heavily censored to hide the identity and locations of the Soviet radar sites whose communications the NSA was able to intercept.

But the "UFO content" of the documents is now available for everyone to examine, though all places and dates remain censored.

Perhaps the most startling of the documents indicates the Soviets launched a number of interceptor aircraft to "attack" a UFO. But the results of the attempted intercept with the slow moving UFO are unknown as the next eight lines of the document are blacked out.

Business as usual? Well, yes and no. The analyst did note that the UFO was "probably a balloon." In fact, most of the 156 NSA UFO documents report UFOs that are "probably balloons," according to comments in the documents themselves.

## Red balloons

What's all this about balloons? Klass explains.

"When NSA intercepted messages from Soviet radars which reported tracking an 'Unidentifiable object' some NSA analysts translated that into 'Unidentified Flying Object,' " he wrote in his Skeptics UFO Newsletter (404 "N" St. SW, Washington, DC. 20024), which originally broke the news of the declassified NSA UFO documents.

"Because the Soviets used balloons carrying radar reflectors to periodically check the performance of their air defence radars and the alertness of their radar operators, a NSA translator analyst would add 'Probably a balloon' where it seemed appropriate."

But after UFO organizations began making FOIA requests in the late 1970s, Klass believes that someone must have told the NSA translator/analysts to stop using the term "UFO" for the balloon-borne targets. Apparently NSA hasn't used the term since.

What the NSA documents show, according to Klass, is not a grand conspiracy to hide the fact that UFOs are alien spacecraft, but that the Soviets had "deployed height-finder-type radars capable of tracking targets up to altitudes of nearly 80,000 ft."

Yes, Klass admits, there are about a dozen "true" UFO reports in the bunch.

These contain summaries of visual UFO sightings and apparently come from Soviet facilities other than radar installations whose communications the NSA had managed to intercept.

## Investigator reactions mixed

The report is, at best, interesting. But there is certainly nothing here to suggest an alien spacecraft and now that this and other similar NSA UFO documents are out in the open, no evidence of a government cover-up either.

Peter Gersten, the attorney who filed the original UFO FOIA suit against NSA, seemed nonplussed by the release.

"There is nothing in the NSA documents that either confirm or deny the reality of an extraterrestrial presence," says Gersten. "The documents relate exclusively to NSA operations."

And Stan Friedman, the nuclear physicist and UFO investigator who often used the blacked-out NSA court documents in his public talks, is still not happy with the situation.

"There is no question that the NSA is still withholding UFO information preceding 1980," he notes on his website.

But there is no question that Phil Klass has scored big here. He has shown that the believers' "smoking gun" lacked fire of any kind. It barely even packed a squirt.

# SURVIVORS OF THE PAST

By Aaron Justice

The usual public school science textbook reads, "65 million years ago, all of the dinosaurs perished." It is suggested that a comet or meteor struck the Earth, covered it with dust, with the result that all the plants, plant-eating dinosaurs, and the carnivorous dinosaurs died, the latter because they had no more herbivores to eat. The carnivores could have converted to cannibalism, but there were far fewer carnivores than there were herbivores, so cannibalism was not particularly likely. But what if the dinosaurs did not become extinct? What if some are alive today?

Virtually every civilization has stories of dinosaurs or dinosaur-like creatures, some of which were called dragons. Their descriptions were remarkably similar to dinosaurs. As the evidence may suggest, some dinosaurs may have somehow survived to recent times.

Almost every type of dinosaur described is found in legends, fables, or reports by individuals. There have even been sightings of a tyrannosaur-like creature in Africa—one in particular by a plantation owner and his slave. As the report goes, the Swedish plantation owner and his African slave were travelling through the marsh of the swamp in the Kasai valley. They came across a rhinoceros so they were cautious in not disturbing it. Immediately, a large, 13 meter (42 feet) long lizard jumped out of the trees and attacked the rhino. As it was feeding on it, the African servant fled in panic while the Swede fainted. When he awoke, he found the creature still feeding, so he carefully observed it;

*"It was a large beast, at least 12-13 meters long. It was reddish in coloration, with brackish-coloured stripes going down. The legs were thick; it reminded me of a lion, built for speed. It had a long snout and numerous teeth. It gorged itself on the rhinoceros, which twitched with life still in it. (Note: the rhino was probably dead, but the Swede probably didn't know about involuntary muscle spasms.) After the creature had eaten its fill, it returned to the jungle slowly, its belly full of flesh."*

If Mokele-mbembe, kongamato, or nden-ndeki still exist in Africa, is the survival of the greatest predator to roam on earth beyond all limits of possibility? It may not be the tyrannosaurus, but the tarbosaurus, a close

relative to the tyrannosaurus. It fits exactly the description of the Kasai Rex, a title given to the beast. Very few people have seen it, but the reports of those who have were all similar, the size differed slightly, but the colour of the creature remained the same, a dark red. I believe that the beast, or beasts, live very deep in Africa, but venture out when food is scarce.

Many other creatures also live in Africa, perhaps since it seems to be the perfect place to house these creatures. In the same area that Mokele-Mbembe lives, a monstrous crocodile, 50 feet in length, also putatively lives, a crocodile twice the size of any known by zoology. This may be the deinosaursuchus, a large crocodile supposedly extinct.

They also report long snake-like creatures measuring over 100 feet long, a flying reptile called the Kongamato, and a beast with "planks" growing out of its back, perhaps a species of stegosaurus.

Emela-Ntouka is another African mystery creature. It is described like a rhinoceros, but larger and with a single ivory horn. Rhinos have horns like a mass of hair, not like ivory. Emela-Ntouka also kills hippopotamuses and elephants that get in its way. Perhaps it is the Centrosaurus; a single horned relative of the triceratops.

There is one creature that has been photographed. It is called Incanyamba, a creature similar to Mokele-Mbembe. In 1996, Bob Teeney and a friend were visiting Howick Falls in South Africa. They noticed some bubbles rising in the water, then a head with a long neck emerged. Bob managed to take one picture before they fled, believing that the creature would kill them. The photograph is very clear. Bob also has three eggs, a little bigger than a chicken egg, which he believes is the monstersí. A reptile expert saw the eggs and said that it was of a crocodile, but crocodiles don't live in the Howick Falls region.

In the Americas, many dinosaur-like creatures have been sighted. Colonel Percy Fawcett, who has also been noted for shooting a 62-foot long anaconda, claimed that dinosaurs lived in the inner portions of the Amazon. In particular, he noted the diplodocus, one of the longest

dinosaurs known. In lake La Alberca, Mexico, there have been dinosaur sightings for years. It surfaced after an earthquake and a man took its picture.

In North America there have been legends of the thunderbird. Although many of the sightings have suggested that the thunderbird is a large, extinct bird of prey, some of the sightings seem to suggest that it is reptilian. The eastern thunderbird, in my opinion, is a type of unknown or extinct bird; the western thunderbird is some sort of flying reptile, perhaps the pteranodon or the quetzalcoatlus, maybe even both. Near Flagstaff, Arizona, some schoolteachers were leaving for home at around four in the afternoon. A shadow passed over them and they looked up to see what it was. At first they took it to be some sort of bird, but it had at least a 20-foot wingspan or more. They all went back inside and looked at some encyclopedias, after which they all agreed that the creature in question was a pterodactyl of some sort. Perhaps even the entire thunderbird legend was started by a pteranodon. The story began when a tribe of the Sioux Indians saw a bird get struck by lightning, hence thunderbird. When they found the skeleton, it had a 25-foot wingspan with a "bump" on its head, very similar to the crest of a pteranodon. There was even a ceremonial stick made for the occasion that is in display in a museum. The head of it looks exactly like a pteranodon.

At Lake Erie, Pete Peterson was walking along the shore when he found some seagulls pecking at a carcass. He first thought it was a seal, but when he got close it resembled a small plesiosaur. After it underwent taxidermy, he sold it to Carl Baugh who has it on display at a Creation Science museum in Glenrose, Texas. It was x-rayed and found to have a fishhook in its head—some fisherman almost had the ultimate catch!

In the Old Testament of the Bible, there is a description of a dinosaur. It is found in the book of Job, ch. 40, v. 15,

*"Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; He eats grass (literally plants) like an ox. See now, his strength is in his hips, and his power is in his stomach muscles. He moves his tail like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are tightly knit. His bones are like beams of bronze, His ribs like bars of iron. He is the first of the ways of God; Only He who made him can bring near His sword. Surely the mountains yield food for him, and all the*

*beasts of the field play there. He lies under the lotus trees, In a covert of reeds and marsh. The lotus trees cover him with their shade; the willows by the brook surround him. Indeed the river may rage, Yet he is not disturbed; He is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth."*

The usual explanation of behemoth is that it is an elephant or hippopotamus. The only problem is that neither one of these have tails like cedar trees, only the sauropods have large tails. The behemoth may have been the brachiosaurus or the ultrasaurus, two of the largest animals on the face of the earth. It has even suggested that the unicorn of the Bible is the monoclonius, a single horned relative of the triceratops. The unusual thing about this passage is that it says it eats grass. Although some have interpreted that as being plants, it is interesting to note that some of the larger sauropod dinosaurs had enormously long necks, the giant mamenchiosaurs had necks 32 feet long. It is believed that they couldn't raise their necks high in the air, but parallel with their spines, making a counter balance with their bodies and tails. They would have to eat low growing plants and grasses.

In Ica, Peru there have been hundreds of legends of dinosaurs and man living together. Along with these legends, over 20,000 stones have been found, painted or carved in the shape of almost every known kind of dinosaur. Some even show them being used for labor or for transportation. They are all mostly anatomically correct, many of them show sauropods, ceratopsians (horned dinosaurs like Triceratops), stegosaurs, and pterodactyls.

Marco Polo, the Italian explorer, reported that the Chinese emperor had dragons pulling his chariot. The Vikings saw and killed many sea dragons, even fashioned boats after them, the legendary hero Beowulf, a king in ancient Europe, killed many dragons. One was the Grendel, a creature with powerful legs and small, tiny forelimbs, possibly a megalosaurus, or a small tyrannosaurus cousin. St. George was said to have killed a dragon with wings, perhaps a pterosaur. Knights had dozens of routines for slaying dragons; if tales of dragons were just fables, why have techniques for killing them?

As the evidence suggests, not all dinosaurs have gone extinct. In France, there is a city called Nerluc that was being terrorized by a dragon. A local knight battled with the beast and eventually won. The creature was bigger



than an ox and had three sharp horns on its head. The animal in question was most likely a young triceratops, or a close relative. During his military conquest, Alexander the Great mentioned killing dozens of dragons on his way to India. He described many of them as standing on hind legs with large, snapping snouts that could eat a man in a few bites. They also killed many long necked dragons.

An Irish monster was said to have a horse-like head, thick legs, and sharp, iron nails on its tail. This is possibly a Kentrosaurus, a relative of Stegosaurus. Egypt even had its dragons. The Greek explorer Herodotus described small, flying 'reptiles' that lived in ancient Egypt. They could be found in the spice groves and were of various colours. Workers would use bad smelling smoke to scare away the creatures so they could collect the frankincense trees' valuable juices.

If most of the dinosaurs did go extinct, then what killed them? The most widely used theory is the comet or meteorite theory. But why were dinosaurs, the most dominant species of animal the earth has ever seen, the only ones to be completely exterminated? Why did the sea dwelling dinosaurs, more properly referred to as marine reptiles, die too? Here is my theory. The fossils found suggest that all of these creatures were buried with mud and silt--no meteor could do this without destroying the earth too. If a meteor were to hit the ocean, it could create a tidal wave, killing the marine reptiles and the dinosaurs and it would also bury them, but it would kill all the animals, not just the dinosaurs. Scientists now are thinking that an epidemic may have killed the dinosaurs, but proof is still to be found to support this.

Could, perhaps, the Biblical account of Noah's flood be true? Noah was said to have taken every kind of animal on the ark. Dinosaurs were most likely taken too. Most people point out that dinosaurs were much too large to be taken on the ark. Well Noah was 600 years old, the human race was genetically pure and there was a layer of water vapor or ice that surrounded the earth that blocked out harmful rays from the sun, people lived a lot longer, so Noah was a pretty smart person. He figured out that big dinosaurs are big, little ones are little. Dinosaurs used to be babies. Babies are small, they eat less, and are indestructible. Human babies can run, fall down, bounce back up and run some more, but adults run, fall, and break, or lie there for a while.

The water from the flood could have easily have covered the animals with a layer of mud that would form fossils. Although no storm could possibly cover the earth in water, the water vapour or ice canopy could have fallen and covered more of the earth, and in the book of Genesis it says that the "fountains of the deep" burst open. What Genesis suggests is that there was water under the crust of the earth, and, when the crust broke, the pressure forced it up, and the water covered the earth. In the Pacific Ocean there is a large ridge that looks if though something came up from it, it might be the source of water that covered the earth. Whatever the answer may be to this ancient mystery, one thing is for sure, that some dinosaurs were alive at one point and may still even be alive today.

#### Selected Sources:

*A Living Dinosaur?* by Dr. Roy P. Mackal

*Jaws, Claws, and Dinosaurs* by William J. Gibbons and Dr. Kent Hovind

*Mysteries of the Unexplained* by Readers Digest

*Alien Animals* by Janet and Colin Bord

New King James Bible

[http://come.to/the\\_cryptoweb/](http://come.to/the_cryptoweb/)

# BEING LED BY THE LEADERS

By Andy Ashmore (YUFOS)

I was re-reading the January edition of our humble little magazine the other day. Amongst excellent articles such as Dave Clarke's "Century of Sheffield Saucers", and an interview with Bill Chalker was an item by Andy Roberts on a well known British ufologist –one Mr. Tony Dodd.

It was a most interesting and at times amusing account of one of our established investigators who had just released a new book.<sup>6</sup>

His portrayal, or rather character assassination, of this individual got me thinking about all the other people who lead us on this quest for the truth.

All I had previously known about Tony Dodd is that many years ago he was a ranker in the police force...well, I think that was the word.

Anyhow, all the talk in Andy's script about Tony's paranoia about having his phone tapped and mail tampered with gave me cause for concern. After all you are usually given tablets from the doctor for symptoms like this, and here we are being fed information by someone who wouldn't know chlorpromazine from a Smartie. (Chlorpromazine is an anti-psychotic drug used in cases of paranoia and associated signs.)

I once heard him on a daytime TV programme talking about a crashed UFO in South America and how he had been informed by a 'reliable source' (unidentified as usual), that the remains had been taken to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in America. Talk about a cliché.

Unfortunately this sort of sensationalist writing done by people such as Tony seems to attract a following and judging by his following he has become a bit of a cult...yet again, I think I have the right word.

Mind you, it's nice work when you can get it and after all a book sale is a book sale. Perhaps if he had gone down the road of rational investigator then his work would not have sold in such numbers. After all, if the market is

there why not exploit it? It's only what every manufacturer tries to do.

The thing is, does he actually believe anything that he says? I've known people in my life who were professional liars but who, to me, really accepted what they were telling me as the truth.

That really says a lot about human nature, but the saddest thing is what all this says about we followers of the subject and the leaders to whom we look for information.

Are we really so gullible that we fall for every tall tale that someone 'in the know' conveys to us? I'm afraid so, and I'll be the first person to admit that I've been taken in by incredible anecdotes by members of our the UFO fraternity in my earlier days.

Alas, as time goes on, I have become more sceptical of the whole subject and at times disillusioned with the whole process, turning from a happy optimist into quite a rancorous person....yet again I think that is the right word.

But don't let me put you off from ever reading another book on ufology again. Not all authors are cranks or "I'll write what you want me to write" types. In fact since joining YUFOS I've changed my views on other figures in a more positive light. (One in particular who I criticised in an earlier article – no names mentioned.)

The fact of the matter is to just trust your instincts and if the story sounds too preposterous to be true then accept that this might just be the case. Don't let certain sections of our association lead you down the path to lies and deception.

Fortunately not all our ilk are deceivers and control freaks. There are some excellent detectives out there with unbiased viewpoints and the real facts at hand. All it takes is an open mind and a bit of thought instead of being led to believe what others want you to.

<sup>6</sup> "Alien Investigator: the Casefiles of Britain's Leading UFO Investigator" Headline, £9.99

# PROSAIC EXPLANATIONS:

## THE FAILURE OF UFO SKEPTICISM (part 4)

by Bruce Maccabee

(brumac@compuserve.com) c B. Maccabee, 1999

*"In over 30 years of UFO investigation I have not studied a single sighting for which I could not find a prosaic explanation."* -Paraphrase of a statement by Philip J. Klass

### Case of the Flashing Triangle

It is rare when the physics of the physical evidence in a sighting absolutely proves a prosaic explanation to be wrong. If there is physical evidence associated with a UFO sighting, its value or pertinence is generally disputed by the skeptics, who find some justification for ignoring the physical evidence and thereby removing an impediment to accepting the proposed explanation. However, in the case I am about to discuss the physical evidence stands on its own and **MUST** be explained if the sighting is to be rejected as evidence for the ET or OI/NHI hypothesis.

During the early morning of December 31, 1978 there was a series of sightings off the east coast of the South Island of New Zealand. These sightings made news around the world. While flying on a freighter aircraft loaded with newspapers a TV news crew saw and filmed strange lights which, in the opinion of the experienced air crew (pilot, copilot) were extraordinary. The complete story has been published in the article entitled, *"Analysis and discussion of the Images of a Cluster of Periodically Flashing Lights Filmed Of the Coast of New Zealand,"* which is published in the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, Vol 1 #2, 1981, pg. 149 ([www.jse.com](http://www.jse.com)). An e-mail version is available from the author. The published article presents the in-depth analysis of all the images in this section of the movie film. It is sufficient for this discussion to describe only those few images which are of particular interest here.

The TV news cameraman used a large Bolex electric camera with a telephoto lens. He held this camera on his shoulder because there was no room on the flight deck for a tripod. The flight deck has windows at the front and sides positioned so that the fields of view of the pilot and co-pilot, added together, is somewhat more than 200 degrees from left to right (the pilot sits on left side of the cockpit, the copilot on the right). The cameraman sat in a seat between and slightly behind the pilot and

copilot and therefore had a field of view of less than 180 degrees. This is important to understand, because from his position he could not film the right wing of the aircraft without placing his camera lens directly in front of the copilot or sitting in the copilot's seat.

At 2:51 a.m., near the end of the flight of the Argosy freighter aircraft from Christchurch to Blenheim, the Wellington Air Route Traffic Control Center (WARTCC) announced to the crew that there was a large radar target north-northwest and about 20 miles ahead of them. They were about 20 miles east of the coast, approaching Cape Campbell, at the northeastern "corner" of the South Island, at the time of the radar report. The air crew and the news crew recall seeing a light appear ahead of the plane and the news reporter on board recorded a statement about seeing a flashing light "like an aircraft beacon" that suddenly dropped downward and started "rolling and turning." He also said that he could see "orange and red among the lights." This all appeared to be happening in the sky above the land or ocean near the northeastern area of the South Island.

Although it is impossible to prove from direct evidence that the cameraman filmed this same light (because there was no synchronization between the filming and the audio tape), it can be proven that this section of his film was taken in the same time frame. Moreover, the film does, indeed, show a flashing light which cannot be identified with any known light in the area. Its flash rate is about once per second.

The movie camera created a series of pictures, called "frames," which recorded the images of the light, one after another, at a rate of about ten frames (ten pictures) per second. (The cameraman intentionally slowed the frame rate from the normal 24 frames per second in order to be sure that he got good exposures of the images.) Looking frame-by-frame through the 279 frames of the flashing light one finds that there are about ten frames per cycle of the



flash (nearly thirty cycles are on the film). During each cycle the images start large and white or very pale yellow (overexposed) and they shrink in size and brightness to dim combinations of red and yellowish-orange and then increase in brightness and size back to large and white. It is of importance, for comparison with the proposed prosaic explanation, to note that the overexposed images have NO trace of red associated with them.

Philip Klass devoted three chapters of the above cited book (UFOs, The Public Deceived) to the famous New Zealand sightings. He proposed numerous prosaic, though, in my opinion, wrong, explanations for the lights seen and filmed and for the radar targets which were reported during the flight of the aircraft, first southward from Wellington to Christchurch and then northward from Christchurch to Blenheim. In Chapter 27 he discussed the section of film which is of interest here. Klass described the flashing light in the film as follows:

*"a light that fluctuates rapidly from dim red-orange to a bright white, then back to red-orange, then back to bright white at approximately the flash rate of the red-orange anti-collision beacons installed atop and beneath the the Argosy's fuselage."*

Klass refers to red, not red-orange, rotating beacons on the top and bottom of the aircraft.

These beacons project narrow beams of light that rotate around and appear as red flashes to a distant observer. These beacons were captured on film by the cameraman before the flight began. He set up his camera on a tripod while the plane was still at the airport and filmed the plane as the engines were warmed up in order to "run in" his camera. The images of these beacons show that when the light is pointed at the camera and is, therefore, brightest, the image is overexposed and consists of a yellow central circle surrounded by a wide, red annular region, i.e., a red ring around a yellow center.

Noticing that the flash rates of the upper beacon and the light on the film were, for all practical purposes, equal, Klass proposed that the flashing light on the film was actually the upper beacon. How could this have been done since there was no way the cameraman could directly film the beacon from inside the aircraft? Klass writes:

*"(the cameraman) would not have been able to film the topside beacon directly. But its intense illumination could have been reflected off one of the aircraft's rotating propellor blades when the beacon rotation rate and the propellor speed were roughly 'synchronized.'"*

*Such synchronization would have occurred when (the captain) began to throttle back for his descent (into Blenheim), possibly increasing the propellor pitch angle. A short time later, when he throttled back further, the requisite synchronization would have been lost and the (UFO image) would mysteriously disappear."*

The images on the film vary considerably in shape and size from frame to frame. Klass offered the following explanation of the image shape changes:

*"If (this section of film shows) a reflection of the beacon from the curved surface of the propellor blades, whose rotation rate was not perfectly synchronized with the rotating topside beacon, it readily explains the remarkable changes in shape, size and appearance of the (UFO) images that occur in a fraction of a second."*

The actual explanation for the shape change is straightforward and has nothing to do with a hypothetical temporary synchronization of the beacon and the propellor rotation. Since the cameraman supported the camera on his shoulder in a moving, vibrating airplane most of the images were smeared by camera motion.

However, some images were either not smeared or were smeared very slightly. This is because the camera pointing direction vibrated about some average position. Each time the image moved away from the center of the film the cameraman would twist the camera to recenter the image. The image would reach a maximum distance from center and then the image motion would momentarily cease before the direction reversed and the image moved back toward the center. Therefore, the frames obtained during moments of direction reversal, the "stationary frames," contain images that were not smeared or smeared very little. The brightest white images in these stationary frames are circular or nearly circular. The white and red-orange images that occur between stationary frames were stretched by the camera motion into "hot dog" shapes (elongated). The stationary frames which contain the dimmest, smallest images show a very unique arrangement of lights: a triangle

consisting of an orange "dot" image just above two side-by-side red "dot" images.

Klass points out in his book that I rejected his hypothesis that the UFO image could have been a result of filming the reflection off the propellor of the beacon. Unfortunately, however, he did not describe my objections to his hypothesis even though he should have known what they were because of our extensive discussions of this sighting in numerous letters long before he wrote his book.

My first objection is not based on physics but on the fact that the cameraman, from his middle seat, could not have filmed in the direction of the propellor without putting his camera in front of the copilot or sitting in the copilot's seat, and neither the cameraman nor the copilot recall either such event.

The second objection is based on fundamental physics (optics/photography) and is, in fact, devastating to Klass' "prosaic explanation." (As mentioned above, I made him aware of this objection but he did not include it in his book.)

The clues have already been given and the astute reader may have already deduced the second objection. It is most evident in the comparison of the bright, overexposed UFO images with the bright, overexposed beacon images. As I stated above, the cameraman filmed the red flashing upper (and lower) beacon before the plane took off. The film shows that when the beacon was pointed toward the camera the images were relatively large and consisted of a yellow central circular area surrounded by a wide red annular region. The yellow center is caused by overexposure to the extent that the film cannot produce the correct color (it produces pale yellow rather than red because more film color layers than just the red-producing layer have been exposed by the extreme intensity of the light). The red annular region is a result of light scattering sideways in the film. As the light scatters sideways from the extremely bright central region of the image, the intensity decreases to a level at which the film can produce the correct color, in this case, red. (Example: had the light been green there would be a pale center with a very green annulus around it.)

This is completely different from the brightest images on the UFO film, however. A careful examination of the overexposed images shows that the centers are white or very pale yellow

and there is NO red annular region. That means that these images were absolutely NOT made by filming a red light, whether directly, as by having the camera film directly toward the beacon, or indirectly, such as by reflecting the beacon light off the rotating propellor blades. (There is another optical/photographic reason for rejecting the "propellor-reflected-light" hypothesis: a reflection off propellor blades would be extremely weak because the blades do not "fill up" the space. After all, propellor blades "disappear" and you can "see through them" when they are rotating rapidly. Any reflection under such circumstances would be extremely weak and diffuse and very unlikely to cause any overexposed images.)

Hence Klass' explanation is rejected for perfectly good physical reasons. (Note: a TRUE UFO might be able to violate physics as we know it, but known objects such as beacons, cameras, and film cannot violate physics as we know it. The previous argument against the beacon hypothesis is based on well-known optical physics.)

The logical, skeptical response to the absolute rejection of this explanation would be, of course, to propose another explanation. Since the airplane was flying many miles off the east coast of the South Island of New Zealand, and since there were beacons along the shore, the first logical suggestion would be that the film shows one of these beacons. The cameraman said he was certain that he had not filmed a beacon. He said that whenever he saw a light which he couldn't identify he asked the pilot or copilot to identify it. The air crew was, of course, familiar with the beacons in the area and told the cameraman which lights were beacons. The statement by the cameraman is supported by a comparison of the film images with known beacons. Careful analysis of the film indicates that the source of the images was a triangular arrangement of lights consisting of a pale yellowish-orange light that pulsed at about 1 Hz, which was above two pulsating side-by-side red lights. The intensity of the upper light ranged from effectively zero (no image) to such a large value that it overexposed the film. The red lights also pulsed at 1 Hz, but in the opposite phase: when the upper light was at zero brightness the red lights were maximum, and vice versa. The red lights never got bright enough to overexpose the film. Using information supplied by the New Zealand government a search was made of all the beacons within about 50 miles of the aircraft. None of the beacons had a triangular arrangement of lights.

Moreover, all the beacons were found to be too weak, too far away, to have the wrong flash period, or the wrong color. There is no beacon that could account for the film.

Yet another logical suggestion would be another aircraft. However, there were no other aircraft flying in that area of New Zealand at the time, according to the air traffic controller who was monitoring the Argosy flight to Blenheim.

The possibility that the film showed light from a boat was considered. There are no flashing lights such as this on boats (which have steady lights that do not change color). The only boats with lights bright enough to make overexposed images at long distances are squid fishing boats. They use very bright incandescent lights to lure squid to the surface at night for netting. The Japanese squid fleet was in New Zealand waters at the time, but their lights are steady and only white.

Yet another suggested explanation is that there was an emergency vehicle or police car with its lights flashing on the land closest to the airplane. Aside from the fact that emergency vehicles do not carry lighting of the type that would create images such as this, the pilot checked with the authorities and was told that there were no emergency or law-enforcement vehicles traveling the New Zealand highways and byways near the location of the plane at the time.

Another suggestion was that a light inside the aircraft was filmed. However, this suggestion was rejected because there were no flashing lights inside the aircraft and, furthermore, the captain had turned off all the cockpit lights, leaving only steady, dim red meter lights on the control panels.

As a last resort one might propose a distant bright planet on the horizon, fluctuating in brightness and color as a result of random atmospheric refractions. However, such fluctuations would not be perfectly steady and furthermore, Venus, the only astronomical light source bright enough to produce images remotely like these, was not visible at the time.

Now you know the reason that Klass proposed the upper beacon explanation: he was aware, from our considerable correspondence on this sighting, that all the other explanations had failed. The only remaining light that had a remote chance of explaining the sighting was the upper beacon, because of the near

equivalence of the flash rate. Then Klass had to propose an auxiliary hypothesis to explain how the beacon could be filmed from inside the aircraft by reflection off the propeller. This was very clever, but unconvincing to the experienced optical physicist. But the final rejection of his hypothesis is based on the images of overexposed red lights as described above.

Without any other known sources of light to create the film images, this has to be considered unexplained and I know of no reason to believe that it will be eventually explained. It is a True UFO. If we assume that the lights which made these images were part of the object detected by radar at 2:51 a.m., at a distance of about 20 miles ahead of the airplane, then quantitative estimates can be made of the intensity and spacings of the lights (see the above cited reference for details of the calculations). From the spacing of the "dots" in the triangular images (orange "dot" above to side-by-side red "dots") one can calculate that the red lights were about 50 feet apart and the yellow-orange light was about 90 ft above the red lights. (Note: the calculated spacing is proportional to the distance assumed. If the lights were closer the spacing was less.) At its peak brightness the intensity of the upper light was considerably over a million candlepower. It was as if a powerful, pulsating spotlight had been pointed toward the witnesses on the airplane.

## Conclusion

The few sightings discussed here are important because they illustrate the problem faced by skeptics who would argue that, because there are prosaic explanations for all sightings, there is no evidence for ET/NHI/OI contact. The problem faced by the skeptics is that there are sightings for which the generally accepted (by skeptics!) prosaic explanations are wrong or at least unconvincing. The failure of UFO skepticism, from the scientific point of view, has been to allow such explanations to be accepted by the scientific community. If UFOs were "ordinary science," the proposed explanations would have been rigorously analyzed, and probably rejected, rather than simply accepted. Scientific ufology needs skeptics, but skeptics who are capable of recognizing when a sighting simply cannot be explained by any prosaic explanation.



## COUNTDOWN TO THE MILLENIUM (part 3)

### Conference Review

By Adam Bradley (YUFOS)

Steve Mera was the next speaker rolled out and after a few troubles with the projector he was underway. He is a UFO investigator in the Manchester area and was there to report an interesting case they had investigated.

It began with reports from Manchester of mysterious black helicopters which the speaker believed to be identical to H64 longbow and H64 standard American military helicopters (at this point I'd also like not to mention YUFOS member and secretary Richard Moss' excellent talk on military helicopters, as this is Steve's somewhat shaky platform and not anybody else's) and it was suspected that it could have something to do with the Y2K bug as it was toward the end of 1999 and people believed they were there in case of a disaster.

It was also claimed that the helicopters lights and even sound were sometimes witnessed to cease. It was claimed that the military were contacted, but denied the presence of their helicopters in that area, the speaker added that he had seen them himself.

Then the main thrust of the investigation got underway with the investigators being contacted at 11.000 pm on the 13th of November by a distressed man, with a strong southern Irish accent sounding between 40-60 years old reporting a large bright object in the sky. They then played a recording of the call, which I found an amazing turn after the forgotten levitation video of the SBI, but unfortunately it was totally incomprehensible and you could just make out the man was really upset. The investigator believed the call was made from a mobile.

After a later telephone conversation with the caller, who introduced himself as Stewart, he explained that the object was spherical and appeared to be about 40-50ft in size and appeared over a farm house on Winter Hill; it then moved over the cattle in the adjacent field who promptly took off and then the object moved away, the caller plucked-up the courage to go after it, but upon finding it hovering nearby he ran away and it was at this time he made his original call.

The researcher was concerned about how the man got their number, which eventually became a part of their investigation. Stewart

went onto explain that he had woken the next day with a red blush going from his face down his body. He had worked on farms and was used to reactions to the chemicals used in farming, but was mystified by this reaction.

He had gone back to work to find a couple of men in dark suits talking with the farm owner. They claimed to be working for MAFF, the government regulatory body on farm standards and procedures, and threatened the farm owner with closure if he reported the event or allowed his employee to do so. They then approached Stewart, who they warned to say nothing and mentioned Stewart's family in a way that he was worried by their detailed knowledge and found it obviously threatening.

They questioned him at great length on his odd markings and asked him to go with them so they could study them better. As this point he mentioned that he had reported his experience to MAPIT (the UFO group to which Steve belongs) and they had told him they would deal with them (MAPIT) later and continued to threaten Stewart. Apparently he must have given in as contact with Stewart shortly after this event was lost. So they attempted to find the farm on which he worked. This was by no means an easy task as Stewart had claimed to work on "Adam's Farm" and after much searching they had not managed to find it.

They next investigated the local pubs as they believed he must be a local at least one of them, but they went far and wide and found that most landlords didn't even know the shops next door. On one occasion there was a pub with a huge kennel just across the road and the landlords didn't seem to know it was there.

They tried calling the mobile they had originally been contacted on and got the owner of the farm. His attitude was surly and very unpleasant and he told them straight that he had no desire to talk about his former farm hand and that he had left.

They then continued to try to find the farm and contacted the police to inform them of a possible missing person case. Most local police stations were empty, so they had to go to the largest local village and filed a report, but the police stated that they wouldn't take the matter any further until a family member

reported the man missing.

One day driving in the hope they would find the farm they were followed by a land rover and after entering a dead end path got out to confront the driver. Steve is not a small man and one assumes neither are his mates of which there were three. Steve approached the driver who asked him, "What do you want round here?" Steve stated simply that they were out for a drive and the brave little man in the land rover warned them to keep away and drove off.

After an invaluable tip-off they managed to find "Adam's Farm" the confusion apparently rising from the passing of the farm through several hands. There they found the land rover which had followed them. They have still been unable to find the missing man, but they did locate a man in the local cattle market who claims to know him.

A story like this deserves an end, but this being real life it ended about there, the farm owner refusing to come forward, the apparent MIBs gone forever and the poor Stewart lost. The researcher vowed to carry on following the case and with the evidence they have at the moment you can't doubt they have a shot at a good story.

Unfortunately for me and you as the reader, they did rely on slides quite heavily so I couldn't see to write my notes and most of their part of the article is written from memory. But this is as nothing compared to the next speaker who conducted his entire speech with slides and the subject matter was mostly maths!!!!. Ralph Ellis. Writer of *Thoth*, Architect of the Universe and Jesus last of the pharaohs, pilot and member of mensa. He stood before us, hands on hips, short sleeved blue shirt, sun-glasses and a belt that was only just visible beneath the silver clasps that adorned it (nice).

The projector snapped on and he began. The members of YUFOS that attended the conference are slightly conflicting on the presentation so I can give only mine, it was much like listening to John Major read the phone book and it didn't help that he was discussing the mathematical similarity between the Egyptian pyramids, Stonehenge and other ancient sites. Pi, which is a complex function of mathematics featured heavily in the first part of the talk. It appears in imperial measurement and he found it's mark in pyramid design and in the construction of

ancient site's.

For me the most fascinating part of his talk was the proposition that the Bible was metaphorically describing Christ as a Pharaoh descended from a shunned religious group that worshipped the stars. As did the Egyptians of the time, they began worshipping different astrological signs and went to war forcing Jesus's people to flee their homeland. He illustrated it with maps of their homeland and decoding of hieroglyphs and it was without doubt an intelligent effort and is also worth mentioning that he has published his own work showing his conviction and sincerity (just stay away from the audio tape).

At the end of this, Tim rounded-up by adding that he had one last treat for us all and two gents went to the front of the room and put on some transparencies.

The first and most vocal of the two was a truly scary chap with blazing red hair and ice blue eyes, the second stood at the back with a goatee and darker, brooding features and at first I honestly expected them to whip out guns and kill us all.

They at first began to skeptically explain some UFO sightings that had happened recently, one of which was a sighting of a "second sun", which is when the sun sets and an image of it appears above the horizon shortly after, in this case reported as a UFO. This went on to their slightly mocking explanation of other cases, unfortunately due to the other speakers overrunning they had to rush and so leaped into a hilarious criticism of a reporter in *UFO* magazine with such enthusiasm that the red haired man yelled a couple of times. During a day of paranormal studies it was the first time I had been genuinely scared. This wrapped up quickly and the winners of the raffle were announced and the auction of Jenny's books.

Tim finished by explaining his desire to bring people from other races into the UFO and paranormal field and went on to call for more skeptical study in this area as there were no aliens and we needed to leave the age of stupidity behind us and move on, an unusual statement to make at that time I thought. But we applauded enthusiastically and departed for the dark streets of Chorley.

Overall it was a vastly varied day with moments of entertainment mixed with thought provoking philosophy and worth every step up that staircase in the huge library.